

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated 28 February 2003, the applicant requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-3, 20, and 21 are pending in the application, and are rejected. Claims 1 and 20 will be amended, and new claims 22-47 will be added upon entry of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

Amended Claims

Claims 1 and 20 will be amended to provide a proper antecedent basis, and are not being amended in response to the rejections. These are not narrowing amendments.

Rejection of Claims Under §102

Claims 1 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Moreau (U.S. Patent No. 4,282,493). The applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 recites a circuit for dividing an input clock signal comprising, among other elements, a Johnson counter. Claim 20 recites a method for generating at least two clock signals comprising, among other elements, coupling the output signal of the phase lock loop circuit to an N stage Johnson counter.

Moreau relates to clock signal generating circuitry, and refers to divide-by-four Johnson Counter 207 and 212. Moreau, column 4, lines 62-63. However, Moreau has apparently incorrectly identified the divider circuits as Johnson counters.

The specification states that a “Johnson counter is a specific form of shift register with a specific feedback to its serial input such that whatever the state of the output stage, the complement of that state is applied to the serial input at the next clock pulse.” Specification, page 4, lines 22-25. This description is corroborated by a selection from a textbook cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith. The selection, M. Morris Mano, Digital Design, 288-289 (2nd ed., Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 1991), describes a Johnson Counter, also called a switch-tail ring counter, as “a circular shift register with the

complement output of the last flip-flop connected to the input of the first flip-flop.” An example is shown in Figure 7-23(a) on page 289.

Moreau illustrates the dividers 207 and 212 in detail in Figures 5 and 6. Moreau, column 7, lines 21-22. Neither divider is a shift register with a complement of its output state applied to its input. Moreau does not show a Johnson Counter as is recited in claims 1 and 20.

The applicant respectfully submits that Moreau does not show all of the elements recited in claims 1 and 20, and that claims 1 and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims Under §103

Claims 2, 3, and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moreau. The applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 2-3 are dependent on claim 1, and recite further limitations with respect to claim 1. Claim 21 is dependent on claim 20, and recites further limitations with respect to claim 20.

As discussed above, Moreau does not show all of the elements recited in claims 1 and 20. The Office Action has not supplied the elements missing in Moreau. For reasons analogous to those stated above, and the recitations in the claims, the applicant respectfully submits that Moreau does not show all of the elements recited in claims 2, 3, and 21, and that claims 2, 3, and 21 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims

The applicant has added new claims 22-47 and respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for allowance.



CONCLUSION

The applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney at 612-373-6973 to discuss any questions which may remain with respect to the present application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

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Date 17 JUNE 2003

By _____ 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 17 day of June, 2003.

Name

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Signature

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